

Amendment Dated: January 24, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-40 and add new claims 41-60 as follows:

1-40. (Cancelled)

41. (New) A composite article having an upper member of plastics material and a lower member of plastics material that together form an outer shell, and an inner core of filler within said shell.

42. (New) A composite article according to claim 41 wherein said filler is a composite resin-stone mix.

43. (New) A composite article according to claim 42 wherein said resin-stone mix comprises a mixture of limestone, calcium carbonate, dicyclopentadiene (DCPD) resin and a catalyst.

44. (New) A composite article according to claim 41 wherein said upper member has an outer layer of hardwearing, scratch resistant material.

45. (New) A composite article according to claim 44 wherein said upper member has a layer of softer material underneath said outer layer for absorbing impacts occurring during use of the article.

46. (New) A composite article according to claim 45 wherein said upper member is an acrylic capped ABS material.

47. (New) A composite article according to claim 46 wherein the ratio of the thickness of the ABS layer to the acrylic layer is 9:1.

48. (New) A composite article according to claim 41 wherein said lower member is made of ABS.

49. (New) A composite article according to claim 41 wherein said lower member has a shape that conforms to desired variations in thickness of said inner core.

50. (New) A composite article according to claim 41 wherein sockets are provided in the underside of said lower member for receiving legs for raising the article above a surface on which it is installed.

51. (New) A composite article according to claim 50 wherein the legs are an interference push-fit into the sockets.

52. (New) A composite article according to claim 41 wherein said upper and lower members are provided with means to aid locating said members relative to one another during moulding of said core.

53. (New) A composite article according to claim 52 wherein said locating means comprise co-operating formations on said upper and lower members.

54. (New) A composite article according to claim 53 wherein said co-operating formations are configured to provide a hole in a base wall of the article.

55. (New) A composite article according to claim 41 wherein said lower member is provided with means to release air trapped between said members during moulding of said core.

56. (New) A composite article according to claim 41 wherein said lower member is provided with means to assist distribution of said filler material between said members during moulding of said core.

57. (New) A composite article according to claim 56 wherein said lower member is provided with an array of interlinked recessed regions that allow said filler material to flow freely between said members.

58. (New) A method of manufacturing a composite article comprising the steps of providing a flowable filler material between upper and lower members that define a cavity filled with said flowable filler material, and hardening said filler material to form a solid inner core encased by said members.

59. (New) A method according to claim 58 including the steps of inverting the upper member so that an inner surface of the upper member is uppermost, pouring said filler material onto the inner surface of the inverted upper member, inverting the lower member so that an inner surface of the lower member is lowermost, bringing the members together to distribute and confine said filler material therebetween prior to hardening said filler material to form the inner core.

60. (New) A method according to claim 58 including the step of compressing said filler between the upper and lower members and releasing air trapped between the members during formation of the inner core.